

## V

### BOOK REVIEWS

HANDBOOK OF SKIN DISEASES. By Frederick Gardiner. Third Edition. E. and S. Livingstone. Pp. 283.

It is not easy to appraise this little book. Its author's intention has been to provide for medical students and general practitioners a short readable work containing a description of the commoner skin diseases and their treatment.

Dr. Gardiner's wealth of experience in skin diseases is reflected principally in his clinical descriptions, which are well supported by forty-six illustrations and thirteen coloured plates, most of them excellent. His instructions regarding treatment are also, on the whole, practical, simple and helpful. Occasionally Dr. Gardiner's views regarding classification and ætiology would hardly meet with universal acceptance. Alopecia Areata, for example, is included among fungous diseases; while the term seborrhœa is applied indiscriminately to several different conditions including excessive activity of the sebaceous apparatus, dandruff, and what is usually known as seborrhœic eczema.

The impression gained from reading the book is that discussion on ætiology has been sacrificed for the sake of brevity. This detracts from the interest of the work, which otherwise fulfils its purpose very well.

G. D.

MICROSCOPIC SLIDE PRECIPITATION TESTS FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND EXCLUSION OF SYPHILIS. By B. S. Kline, A.B., M.D., Chief of Laboratories, Mount Sinai Hospital of Cleveland, Assistant Professor of Pathology, Western Reserve University. Price 13s. 6d. net. Publishers: Ballière, Tindall & Cox, 8 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, W.C. 2.

ACCOUNTS of the Kline test for syphilis and of work and experiments in connection with it have appeared from time to time in various medical journals. Here, in "Microscopic Slide Precipitation Tests for the Diagnosis and Exclusion of Syphilis," by B. S. Kline, the whole subject has been brought within the compass of a single small volume.

In 1926 Kline and Young carried out what was practically a Kahn test, but used slides instead of tubes. The results were none too satisfactory, especially at low temperatures, and various modifications were tried. Finally it was determined to study the method of antigen preparation and also of making up antigen emulsions.

First a highly purified extract was prepared in the form of a wax from which the acetone soluble elements had been removed. This is the basis of the antigen emulsion and is dissolved in alcohol; it will apparently keep indefinitely. In the next step—the making up of the antigen emulsion—the Kline test again differs from most flocculation reactions. First the cholesterin is added to distilled water; then the